

26 March 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, United States Intelligence Board

SUBJECT: KH-4 Satellite Schedule for April

1. A review of recent satellite photo reconnaissance shows that both packages of a very good KH-4 (1004-J) were recovered on 18 and 21 February, respectively. [redacted]

2. There is a requirement for satellite photographic search coverage of the Sino-Soviet Bloc at the rate of about once per month. KH-4 Mission 1003-J was scheduled and launched on 24 March to meet the requirement for March but failed to orbit.

3. The standby KH-4 vehicle, 9064-M (a single package) can be launched [redacted] after notice. We are advised that the next J may be available on or about [redacted]

4. COMOR has considered whether in the light of the requirement and these events and circumstances, a request should be made to proceed with launching 9064 and not to wait [redacted] for a J mission.

5. Recommendation*

a. That the NRO be requested to launch a KH-4 (9064) as soon as feasible. This CORONA launching would be against normal CORONA search requirements.

b. That the NRO be prepared to launch a KH-4 [redacted] after a above assuming it is successful.

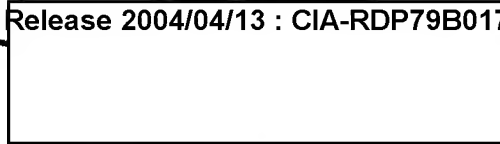
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NRO review(s) completed.

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If a is not successful, NRO should launch another KH-4 as soon as possible.

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* The CIA and State Department believe that, in view of the excellent coverage achieved by 1004-J (estimated per cent of the Soviet Union and per cent of China with useable photography) there is not now an overriding intelligence need to launch the 9064 standby early in April. They feel that it would be best to preserve 9064 as a standby and they recommend that instead a J mission should be launched as scheduled in April.

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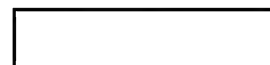
James Q. Reber

Chairman

Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance

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